

Security while funding homeland security needs and reforming the Tax Code.

For fiscal year 2004, taxpayers owed \$322 billion in interest alone. I hope my constituents realize that the first \$2,000 of their taxes will not go towards better schools, roads, health care or defense. Rather, this sum is just one in a series of increasing interest payments they will make because this administration chose to forgo fiscal responsibility in favor of tax cuts for a few privileged Americans.

We need to restore fiscal responsibility to this Congress by reinstating meaningful Pay-As-You-Go rules. Just as a family must plan its budget for the next year, ensuring that expenses do not exceed income, Congress must create a balanced budget to avoid adding even more debt in the future.

I will be voting for the responsible Stenholm Motion to Recommit, which would extend the debt ceiling until April 15, 2005, when next year's budget is due. Unless Congress puts pressure on ourselves, we will never balance the budget. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Stenholm Motion to Recommit and oppose final passage of S. 2986.

HONORING NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. During this month, fifty-nine state and territorial diabetes-control programs, other partners, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are highlighting their efforts to battle this wide spread disease.

Throughout November, these organizations will bring a special focus on: (1) diabetes prevention, (2) pneumonia and pneumococcal vaccinations, and (3) the unique problems endured by women with diabetes.

Currently, an estimated 17 million of our fellow citizens suffer with diabetes and the disease is becoming ever more common in our country. From 1980 through 2002, the number of Americans with diabetes more than doubled. Many of its victims are our most vulnerable—people aged 65 years or older—who account for almost 40 percent of the diabetes population.

Medical research has proven that certain types of diabetes can be delayed or prevented by keeping blood glucose at healthy levels through eating right and staying active. Nevertheless, many of the most susceptible to diabetes remain unaware of these simple prevention methods.

For women, diabetes poses a particularly serious health conditions during all their life stages. It is most troublesome that diabetes can affect the health of pregnant women and her unborn children. Additionally, with the increasing life span of women and the rapid growth of minority populations in the United States, the number of women at high risk for diabetes and its complications continues to increase. This will place added demands on the health care delivery system.

Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a serious disease that affects millions of our citizens. In many instances it is preventable—and we hope, ulti-

mately, curable. Diabetes deserves our attention at all times of year, but during this month of November, it deserves our special focus. I encourage members to join the Diabetes Caucus which helps educate and promote current diabetes programs.

IN MEMORY OF 2LT JEFFREY GRAHAM

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Graham. On February 19, 2004, 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Graham made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Iraq. The work of our young men and women in the armed services is vital for the safety and security of our Nation. The death of 2nd Lt. Graham is a true loss to the United States. I salute his dedication while serving in the 1st Battalion 34th Armor, the 1st Infantry Division of the Army. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and all those who loved him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DENNIS MAES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dennis Maes, the Chief Judge of the Pueblo, Colorado, District Court. Dennis is a man of strong convictions whose upbringing and sense of dignity permeates his courtroom and ensures that the citizens of Pueblo receive fair consideration in the cases brought before his court. It is my privilege in recognizing Judge Maes' outstanding record of service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Judge Maes was born in Trinidad and grew up in Walsenburg, Colorado where he was the eldest of eleven children. His father Leo Maes served five terms as Mayor of Walsenburg and championed issues affecting the Hispanic community. Dennis' parents taught him the value of a good education and instilled in him the idea that a community can only be as viable and credible as its citizens.

Judge Maes graduated from Colorado State University at Pueblo in 1967 and immediately accepted a teaching position with Gardner Middle School. Dennis was driven to continue his education and attended the University of Colorado School of Law in Boulder, Colorado. During his studies, Judge Maes was involved in the movement to bring equal rights to Hispanic Americans and advancing the civil rights agenda. After completing his law degree Dennis, returned to Pueblo working in the Pueblo County Legal Services, and the public defender's office before his appointment as Chief Judge of Colorado's 10th Judicial District by Governor Roy Romer in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Maes is a dedicated judge who has made fairness and moral conviction the center of his life. The citizens of the Pueblo community have been blessed by his

leadership for twenty-two years and I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation and recognize his impeccable record of service. Thank you for your service Dennis and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—THE HONORABLE CAROLYN MCCARTHY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on November 18, 2004, I missed rollcall vote No. 534 due to surgery. Rollcall vote 534 was on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 856.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 534.

NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT ENRIQUE BOLAÑOS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to an event in Latin America that underscores the region's instability and warrants international attention. Over the last few months highly-regarded Nicaraguan President Enrique Bolaños has been fighting for his political survival as charges of corruption against him have led to calls for his impeachment.

During Bolaños' three years in office he has proven himself a capable and popular leader, unafraid to fight against corruption within his government. The president and his supporters allege that Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC) leader Arnoldo Aleman, currently imprisoned for corruption, and Sandinista National Liberation Front leader Daniel Ortega reached a political agreement to oust Bolaños from power, secure their parties' control of key political institutions and gain eventual amnesty for Alemán, a former Nicaraguan president.

While Ortega has recently changed his mind and announced that his party will not pursue impeachment, the Sandinistas and the PLC are continuing efforts severely limit Bolaños' presidential powers. Efforts to remove or reduce his presidential prerogatives can only undermine the democratically-elected president and have little to no constitutional basis. They also go against the will of the people, the majority of whom have pledged their full support to their embattled head of state, putting democracy in Nicaragua in jeopardy. Since the Nicaraguan president has little political support in the National Assembly and the opposition controls key democratic institutions, the international community must actively involve itself to ensure the nation's democracy.

The following research memorandum about Nicaragua's crisis was authored by Research Associate David R. Kolker with additional research provided by Research Fellow Alex Sánchez, both of the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA). Founded in 1975, COHA is an independent,